

February 19, 2003

Mr. Thomas Baillieul, Director
U.S. Department of Energy
Columbus Closure Project
1425 Plain City-Georgesville Rd.
West Jefferson, OH 43162

Dear Mr. Baillieul:

WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS (February 8–14, 2003)

I. Operations:

Building JN-1:

The 5,000-gallon tank and its foundation have been size reduced and packaged as waste. Area cleanup and piping removal are in progress (Work Instruction [WI] -1114).

Work under WI-1155, covering the removal of the large plugs from the High Energy Cell (HEC), is about 50% complete and will continue next week.

Oil was drained from the shielding windows in the HEC in preparation for window removal. This included removal of the expansion tanks, associated hardware, and removing the external window frame covering (WI-1126).

Staff members were briefed on removing the HEC windows. Work started after the subcontractors were trained to Battelle Columbus Laboratories Decommissioning Project (BCLDP) requirements. Window #16 has been removed from the HEC (See attached photos). This work will continue with extended shifts next week (WI-1157).

Work continued on decontamination of the HEC mezzanine in preparations for establishing a waste handling area for managing waste from the HEC crane removal (WI-1122).

Building JN-3

Core cutting and well drilling of dewatering wells were completed. Installation of the well and piping system is in progress (WI-1113).

West Jefferson (WJ) External Areas:

All exterior wells for JN-3 pumping and sight monitoring at the bedrock level have been completed (WI-1136).

Bids and proposals continued to be evaluated for the planned JN-12 Access Control Point/Locker Room trailer to be located on top of the existing footers outside JN-3, and some additional information was requested from the vendors to assist in this process. Leasing versus purchase options are being examined for the two proposals recently received, as well as for the currently unoccupied JS-22 trailer facility at the south end of the West Jefferson complex. These options are being examined because the DOE-OH field office may authorize direct charging of leased facilities.

Transuranic (TRU) Waste Shipping:

On February 4, 2003, the BCLDP shipped to Hanford Nuclear Facility two CNS 10-160B shipping casks with five 55-gallon drums of remote-handled (RH-) TRU waste in each cask. The shipment arrived at Hanford on February 6, 2003. The casks were successfully unloaded at the solid waste burial trench.

The BCLDP contacted the Westinghouse Savannah River Site (WSRS) to discuss issues relating to the Saxton Waste Management project. A packet of information including a video of the waste packaging activities was sent to WSRS for review. Follow-up discussions are planned for next week.

Low Level Waste (LLW) Operations:

Seven (7) 55-gallon drums of LLW were compacted in the Charpy Cell.

Forty-two cubic feet (42 ft³) of compactible LLW were accepted for packaging. Non-compactible low-level debris from radioactive material areas in JN-1 and JN-3 was packaged into B-25 boxes, for a total volume of 438 ft³ (308 ft³ for Envirocare of Utah and 130 ft³ for Hanford disposal.)

Two B-25 boxes were packaged with mixed LLW (MLLW) lead from the HEC and staged in the JN-1 "Sheep shed" <90-day Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) accumulation area. The MLLW is destined for Envirocare for treatment and disposal.

Three cubic feet (3 ft³) of empty RCRA regulated aerosol cans were radiologically free-released for disposal by Battelle Columbus Operations HWO.

Five hundred forty cubic feet (540 ft³) of clean compactible waste were shipped for municipal disposal. Seventy (70) new 55-gallon drums were received from Greif Bros. Corporation for packaging TRU waste and LLW.

One (1) IP-1 intermodal box of LLW soil was shipped to Envirocare for disposal. Total volume of LLW shipped was 540 ft³.

WIDE Technology Deployment:

Staff injected 5,000 gallons of water into the soil of Plot 2, and the plot subsurface water level was recorded over different time intervals. This completed the Injection Cycle testing. Operating procedures are in the review cycle. The WIDE monthly report to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency was completed (WI-984).

II. Environmental Safety and Health Performance:

Safety performance is 801 days and 524,818 exposure hours without a lost time injury accident.

III. Facilities and Equipment:

Daily, weekly, and monthly inspections and maintenance of the WJ North facility alarms, instrumentation, building functions, tickler system, and grounds were completed. Staff member continue the cold weather watch. The evaporator was emptied and cleaned out. Propane was delivered to the site. Buckeye Landscape continued snow and ice removal at the north site. The Yale 4,000-pound propane forklift was repaired and placed back in service.

Planning continued in the following areas:

- WI-1119 covering the JN-6 reroofing is in the review cycle, but the start of work depends on the weather.
- WI-1131 covering the JN-1B Pump Room roof resurfacing is in the review cycle.
- Plans continued to replace the JN-1B groundwater sump pump. The current pump's float switch has failed.

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IV. Future Work Activities:

Attached is the projected work schedule for the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Patrick Weaver, P.E., Manager
Operations

PJW:dew/dmk